

PRISONERS AND SERVICE DOGS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES = MIRACLES

On Thursday, June 23 at 6:00pm, the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) will be partnering 12 service dogs with their new human partners.

This graduation is special on three fronts. Four dogs being partnered have been sponsored by the Tony Stewart Foundation. These dogs are affectionately called “ Smoke’s Pup Crew”.

Tony Stewart, an Indiana native and Nascar champion’s support has been instrumental in supporting ICAN’s mission. Three of Tony Stewart dogs graduating, RACER, CHARLOTTE, and LILLY will be partnered with children who have autism. DORA, will be partnered with Teri who uses a power wheelchair because of a neurological disability.

Second reason this graduation is extra special – ICAN will be graduating our first DIABETIC ALERT DOG, Tippy. Tippy has been trained to alert to Dustin’s low blood sugar – helping avert a medical emergency when Dustin’s blood sugar drops quickly and without Dustin’s awareness.

Third reason – ICAN will be partnering Cubby, a service dog with Sean a RELEASED OFFENDER! Sean is a supervisor at a residential treatment program for people with addictions issues and will incorporate Cubby in animal assisted interventions with those in treatment. Sean was an ICAN trainer when he was incarcerated at the Branchville Correctional Facility. Talk about coming full circle.

Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) is a local nonprofit doing great things with a dual mission. ICAN trains and partners service dogs with children and adults with disabilities. ICAN also provides education and rehabilitation to incarcerated adults as the inmates have the full time responsibility for the training and care of the future serviced dogs.

ICAN is the only accredited service dog program in Indiana. ICAN is accredited through Assistance Dogs International – the standard setting organization for service dog programs. Sally Irvin, PhD ICAN founder and Executive Director is a Board Member of Assistance Dogs International and heads the international committees for service dogs for veterans and global access issues for people with disabilities and their service dogs.

DETAILS OF GRADUATION:

WHEN: Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 6:00pm

WHERE: Indiana Women’s Prison
2596 Girl’s School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46214

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